

Matrix of Credentialing Options -- REGULATED FACILITIES

	<p style="text-align: center;">Agency Category (Licensed community mental health agencies, involuntary evaluation and treatment facilities, certified crisis services; <i>Note – see current exemptions under 18.19.040, (4)**)</i></p>
Education	Per existing RCW 71.24, 71.34, 71.05, WAC 388-865 and Medicaid State Plan requirements
Experience	Per existing RCW 71.24, 71.34, 71.05, WAC 388-865 and Medicaid State Plan requirements
Examination	Per individual practice laws for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Psychologists, Licensed Psychiatrists, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants, Registered Nurses; per WAC 388-865-0107 Peer Counselors must successfully pass an examination administered by the Mental Health Division.
Supervision	Per existing RCW 71.24, 71.34, 71.05, WAC 388-865 and Medicaid State Plan requirements
Title	Title protection continues for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Licensed Social Workers, Licensed Psychologists, Licensed Psychiatrists, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistants, Registered Nurses per existing statute but not for "Counselor" when used in community mental health (i.e. peer counselor, job counselor, employment counselor); other titles (Mental Health Professional, Mental Health Specialist, Mental Health Care Provider) per RCW 71.24, 71.34, 71.05, WAC 388-865 and Medicaid State Plan requirements
Limitation in Scope	Per RCW 71.24, 71.34, 71.05, WAC 388-865 and Medicaid State Plan requirements
Regulatory implementation	Authority rests with the Mental Health Division within DSHS for organizational licensing and certification in community mental health; individual practitioners continue to be licensed under DOH
Stakeholder Implications	Important that a variety of roles/functions requiring various credentials remain available to carry out the broad scope of services provided in a recovery-oriented community mental health system. Not all service delivery roles are intended to progress to a licensed practitioner role.

Chapter 18.19 RCW -- Counselors

18.19.040 Exemptions.

Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit or restrict:

- (1) The practice of a profession by a person who is either registered, certified, licensed, or similarly regulated under the laws of this state and who is performing services within the person's authorized scope of practice, including any attorney admitted to practice law in this state when providing counseling incidental to and in the course of providing legal counsel;
- (2) The practice of counseling by an employee or trainee of any federal agency, or the practice of counseling by a student of a college or university, if the employee, trainee, or student is practicing solely under the supervision of and accountable to the agency, college, or university, through which he or she performs such functions as part of his or her position for no additional fee other than ordinary compensation;
- (3) The practice of counseling by a person without a mandatory charge;
- (4) The practice of counseling by persons offering services for public and private nonprofit organizations or charities not primarily engaged in counseling for a fee when approved by the organizations or agencies for whom they render their services;
- (5) Evaluation, consultation, planning, policy-making, research, or related services conducted by social scientists for private corporations or public agencies;
- (6) The practice of counseling by a person under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or organization, or the practice of religion itself;
- (7) Counselors whose residency is not Washington state from providing up to ten days per quarter of training or workshops in the state, as long as they don't hold themselves out to be registered in Washington state.

Recommendations of Regulated Facility Sub-Group

1. See specific recommendations within Matrix of Credentialing Options above.
2. The Regulated Facility Sub-Group **strongly** supports the need for a change in the use of the Registered Counselor title when used in unregulated/independent practice settings in a manner that identifies baseline education, training and supervisory requirements.
3. Assuming that the Registered Counselor title will no longer be applicable to the regulated facility setting, the Regulated Facility Sub-Group agrees that the community mental health WACs need to be reviewed and revised for additional clarification of education, training and supervision requirements for direct service roles within community mental health, including consideration of the use of licensed mental health professionals in supervisory positions.

Submitted by members of the Regulated Facility Sub-group:

- Ray Harry, Public Member of Psychology Board
- Kelleen Foster, Mental Health Division, DSHS
- Laura Groshong, Washington State Society for Clinical Social Work
- Ann Christian, Washington Community Mental Health Council